

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

The claims have been amended for clarity. No new matter is believed to have been entered.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Weiskopf for the courtesy of an interview on February 7, 2006, at which time the presently amended claims were discussed. In particular, Applicants pointed out that U.S. patent 6,820,715 (Laurent et al), which was applied to reject claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102, simply describes that the required torque is shared between the three electric motors. On the other hand, there is no teaching in Laurent in distributing a torque command generated in one of the systems to a plurality of systems (claims 1-13), or dividing a generated torque command to generate a plurality of distributed torque commands (claims 14-15). It was therefore agreed that the claims define over Laurent et al, and that the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 would be withdrawn.

It is also Applicants' understanding that the objections to the specification and claims in paragraphs 2 and 3 would be withdrawn.

Applicants believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicits an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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